

Select Board Statement May 6, 2019

Last week, Town officials and board members learned of allegations by the Ipswich Educational Foundation (IEF) that Kevin Murphy, who served in the role of Treasurer to that organization for several years, had misappropriated funds in excess of \$280,000 that had been donated to that organization, all of which it has reportedly recovered. While unrelated to his appointment with the Ipswich Educational Fund, Mr. Murphy also served on the Town of Ipswich Finance Committee, and after the IEF's announcement of those allegations, Mr. Murphy informed the Town Manager that he would not seek reappointment to the Finance Committee; he has subsequently resigned his seat on that Committee, effective immediately.

We want to assure the public that Mr. Murphy, like all elected and appointed board members, had no access to Town funds or accounts. His role in Town government has been limited to serving on advisory boards that meet and deliberate in public session and act by majority vote. While there may have been instances where some of his fellow committee members and members of the public may have disagreed with his views, we are not aware of any instances of misconduct by Mr. Murphy in his capacity as a member of these committees that warrants any further action or review at this time.

The Ipswich Educational Foundation is a private, non-profit group that is not affiliated with Town government. We understand that the alleged misappropriation of funds has been reported to law enforcement authorities and that there may be further investigation of these allegations. In deference to those investigations, and because Town officials have no first-hand knowledge of Mr. Murphy's conduct as the Treasurer of the IEF, we will refrain from any further comments about the substance of the IEF's allegations.

Thank you.